(b) As per National Family Health Survey report (2005-06) that the proportion of children under three years of age who are underweight decreased from 43 per cent in NFHS-2 to 40 per cent in NFHS-3 and the proportion of ever-married women who are thin has decreased to 33 per cent in NFHS-3 from 36 per cent in NFHS-2.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development indirectly contributes to the masses through complementary approach towards the food and nutrition component through its various programmes and schemes like:—

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme which is the world's largest programme addressing children under 6 years of age and pregnant and lactating mothers where ICDS provides the following six services:

- Supplementary Nutrition,
- Immunization,
- Health Check ups,
- Referral services,
- Pre-school non-formal Education,
- Nutrition and Health Education.

As on 31.3.2009 approximately 10.70 lakhs AWCs are operational for the benefit of 8.63 crore children below six years and pregnant/lactating mothers who are given supplementary nutrition and other facilities under ICDS. The target is to operationalise 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) all over the country.

(ii) Nutrition advocacy and awareness generation programmes of Food and Nutrition Board under the aegis of the Ministry:—

- Nutrition Education and Training for both the masses and ICDS functionaries,
- Training in Home Scale Preservation of Fruits and Vegetables and Nutrition,
- Providing Fruits and Vegetable Processing facilities,
- Mass Media Communication on nutrition awareness,
- Food Analysis and Standardization,

(iii) The two programmes *viz.* Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls and Kishori Shakti Yojana seek to address the problem of inter-generation cycle of malnutrition by taking care of the malnutrition among adolescent girls.

Procurement of paddy

†960. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that the purchase of Kharif crop-paddy has been completed by Government;

(b) if so, the total quantity of paddy purchased at the end of October, 2009;

(c) the quantity of paddy purchased in comparison to October, 2008; and

(d) the total stock of paddy in the country at the end of October, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In KMS 2009-10 the total quantity of paddy procured by FCI and State Agencies as on 31st October, 2009 was 129.49 lakh MT. Procurement in corresponding period in 2008-09 was 124.89 lakh tonnes.

(d) The total stock of rice in the Central Pool as on 31st October, 2009 was 216.21 lakh MT.

Availability of rice at Rs. 2 per kg. to APL and BPL categories

961. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been demands from various quarters, including political parties, for providing rice at Rs. 2 per kg. irrespective of families belonging to APL or BPL;

(b) whether it is also a fact that food security proposed by Government could be ensured only if rice is made available for Rs. 2 per kg. through PDS;

(c) if so, the steps his Ministry would take in this regard;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a difference between the list of BPL families at the Centre and States; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (e) At present, allocation of foodgrains to States/Union Territories (UTs) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) are made for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, which include 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families. This number of BPL families is based on poverty estimates of Planning Commission for 1993-94 projected on population estimates of Registrar General of India as on 1st March, 2000. As against this, by October, 2009, BPL ration cards issued by States/UTs is 10.96 crore. The higher number of BPL ration cards issued by them is due to improper targeting of the poor households, which has inclusion as well as exclusion errors.

For distribution of allocated foodgrains to eligible BPL, AAY and Above Poverty Line (APL) ration card holders, subsidized Central Issue Prices (CIP) communicated by Central Government are as follows:—